AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1-33. Canceled.

34. (Currently Amended) Method of handling messages in a mobile communications system, comprising the steps of:

transferring a message and ~~associated~~ first hardware identification data that uniquely identifies ~~of~~ an intended terminating receiver of the message from an application node to a message controller;

interacting between the message controller and a location updated subscriber database;

further managing of the message based on the first hardware identification data and data stored in the location updated subscriber database.

35. (Previously Presented) Method according to claim 34, comprising the further step of:

comparing the first hardware identification data and hardware identification data stored in the location updated subscriber database, whereby the step of further managing being based on the outcome of the step of comparing.

36. (Previously Presented) Method according to claim 34, wherein the step of interacting in turn comprises the steps of:

sending the first hardware identification data from the message controller to the location updated subscriber database;

whereby the first hardware identification data is used in the location updated subscriber database to retrieve an address, if any, of a switching or support node presently handling hardware defined by the hardware identification data; and

returning the address of the switching or support node, if any, from the location updated subscriber database to the message controller;

whereby the step of further managing comprises initiating of a transmission of the message to the address of the switching or support node.

37. (Previously Presented) Method according to claim 36, wherein the step of further managing further comprises, if no address of a switching or support node presently handling hardware defined by the hardware identification data is retrieved in the location updated subscriber database, storing of the message and resuming the interacting step with the location updated subscriber database after a delay time.

38. (Previously Presented) Method according to claim 34, comprising the further step of transferring mobile subscriber identification data associated with the message from the application node to the message controller.

39. (Previously Presented) Method according to claim 38, wherein the mobile subscriber identification data is a mobile subscriber ISDN number.

40. (Currently Amended) Method according to claim 38, wherein the step of interacting in turn comprises the steps of:

sending the mobile subscriber identification data from the message controller to the location updated subscriber database;

retrieving an address, if any, of a switching or support node presently handling a mobile subscriber defined by the mobile subscriber identification data and second hardware identification data ~~associated therewith~~ uniquely identifying hardware equipment that, according to the location updated subscriber database, is associated with the mobile subscriber; and

returning the address of the switching or support node and the second hardware identification data from the location updated subscriber database to the message controller.

41. (Currently Amended) Method according to claim 40, ~~wherein a comparing step being performed in the message controller,~~ further comprising:

comparing the first and second hardware identification data~~,; and~~

~~whereby~~ wherein the step of further managing comprises, if the first and second hardware identification data are equivalent, an initiating of a transmission of the message to the address of the switching or support node.

42. (Previously Presented) Method according to claim 41, wherein the step of further managing further comprises, if the first and second hardware identification data are non-equivalent, storing of the message and resuming the interacting step with the location updated subscriber database after a delay time.

43. (Previously Presented) Method according to claim 41, wherein the step of further managing further comprises, if the first and second hardware identification data are non-equivalent, sending of an error message to the application node .

44. (Previously Presented) Method according to claim 34, wherein the first and second hardware identification data comprises at least one of subscriber identification module identification data and mobile equipment identification data.

45. (Previously Presented) Method according to claim 44, comprising the further step of returning at least one of subscriber identification module identification data and mobile equipment identification data from the location updated subscriber database to the message controller.

46. (Previously Presented) Method according to claim 34, wherein the message is a short message service - SMS - message and the message controller is a SMS controller.

47. (Previously Presented) Method according to claim 34, wherein the location updated subscriber database is home location register.

48. (Previously Presented) Method according to claim 36, wherein the switching or support node is a mobile switching centre.

49. (Currently Amended) Message controller, comprising:

a first receiver for a message and ~~associated~~ first hardware identification data ~~of~~ that uniquely identifies an intended terminating receiver of the message; and

~~means for interacting~~ electronic circuitry arranged to interact with a location updated subscriber database~~;~~ and ~~means for~~ further ~~managing of~~ manage the message based on the first hardware identification data and data stored in the location updated subscriber database.

50. (Currently Amended) Message controller according to claim 49, wherein the ~~means for further managing~~ electronic circuitry is arranged to ~~be~~ manage the message based on the outcome of a comparison between the first hardware identification data and hardware identification data stored in the location updated subscriber database.

51. (Currently Amended) Message controller according to claim 49, wherein the ~~means for interacting in turn comprises~~ electronic circuitry includes:

~~sending means~~ a transmitter for sending the first hardware identification data to the location updated subscriber database;

a second receiver for an address, if any, of a switching or support node presently handling hardware defined by the hardware identification data from the location updated subscriber database;

~~the means for further managing comprising means for initiating~~ wherein the electronic circuitry is arranged to initiate a transmission of the message to the address of the switching or support node.

52. (Currently Amended) Message controller according to claim 51, wherein the ~~means for further managing further comprises~~ electronic circuitry is arranged, if no address of a switching or support node presently handling hardware defined by the hardware identification data is provided by the location updated subscriber database, ~~storing of~~ to store the message and ~~resuming~~ resume the ~~interacting step~~ interaction with the location updated subscriber database after a delay time.

53. (Previously Presented) Message controller according to claim 49, wherein the first receiver is arranged for further receiving mobile subscriber identification data.

54. (Previously Presented) Message controller according to claim 53, wherein the mobile subscriber identification data is a mobile subscriber ISDN number.

55. (Currently Amended) Message controller according to claim 53, wherein the ~~means for interacting in turn~~ electronic circuitry comprises:

a transmitter ~~sending means~~ for sending the mobile subscriber identification data to the location updated subscriber database; and

a second receiver for an address, if any, of a switching or support node presently handling a mobile subscriber defined by the mobile subscriber identification data and second hardware identification data ~~associated therewith~~ uniquely identifying hardware equipment that, according to the location updated subscriber database, is associated with the mobile subscriber from the location updated subscriber database.

56. (Currently Amended) Message controller according to claim 55, ~~comprising~~ wherein the electronic circuitry is arranged to:

~~means for comparing~~ compare the first and second hardware identification data;

~~the means for further managing comprising means for initiating~~ initiate a transmission of the message to the address of the switching or support node~~;~~ ~~whereby the means for initiating is arranged to operate~~ if the output of the ~~means for comparing~~ comparison indicates that the first and second hardware identification data are equivalent.

57. (Currently Amended) Message controller according to claim 56, wherein the ~~means for further managing further comprises means for storing of~~ electronic circuitry is arranged to store the message and ~~means for resuming~~ resume interaction with the location updated subscriber database after a delay time~~;~~ ~~whereby the means for storing and means for resuming are arranged to operate~~ if the output of the ~~means for comparing~~ comparison indicates that the first and second hardware identification data are non-equivalent.

58. (Currently Amended) Message controller according to claim 56, wherein the ~~means for further managing further comprises means for sending of~~ the electronic circuitry is arranged to send an error message to an originating node of the message~~;~~ ~~whereby the means for sending an error message is arranged to operate~~ if the output of the ~~means for comparing~~ comparison indicates that the first and second hardware identification data are non-equivalent.

59. (Previously Presented) Message controller according to claim 49, wherein the first and second hardware identification data comprises at least one of subscriber identification module identification data and mobile equipment identification data.

60. (Previously Presented) Message controller according to claim 59, wherein the second receiver is arranged to receive at least one of subscriber identification module identification data and mobile equipment identification data from the location updated subscriber database.

61. (Previously Presented) Message controller according to claim 49, wherein the message is a short message service - SMS - message and the message controller is a SMS controller.

62. (Currently Amended) Communications system node having location updated subscriber database, comprising:

storage for address and hardware identification data associated with mobile subscribers;

means for updating content of the storage;

receiver for hardware identification data ~~associated with~~ that uniquely identifies an intended terminating receiver of a message from a message controller;

means for retrieving an address, if any, of a switching or support node presently handling hardware defined by the hardware identification data from the storage; and

a sender for sending the address of the switching or support node presently handling hardware defined by the hardware identification data to the message controller.

63. (Previously Presented) Communications system node according to claim 62, wherein the sender further comprises means for sending hardware identification data to the message controller.

64. (Previously Presented) Communications system node according to claim 62, wherein the location updated subscriber database is a home location register.

65. (Currently Amended) Mobile communications system, comprising at least one message controller, said message controller in turn comprising:

first receiver for a message and associated first hardware identification data ~~of~~ that uniquely identifies an intended terminating receiver of the message; and

means for interacting with a location updated subscriber database; and

means for further managing of the message based on the first hardware identification data and data stored in the location updated subscriber database.

66. (Previously Presented) Mobile communications system according to claim 65, further comprising at least one communications system node in turn comprising:

storage for address and hardware identification data associated with mobile subscribers;

means for updating content of the storage;

receiver for hardware identification data associated with an intended terminating receiver of a message from a message controller;

means for retrieving an address, if any, of a switching or support node presently handling hardware defined by the hardware identification data from the storage; and

sender for sending the address of the switching or support node presently handling hardware defined by the hardware identification data to the message controller.